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LAST NOTICE

Fourteenth Meeting of the Latin Club

The fourteenth regular meeting of The New York Latin Club is called for Saturday, February 18, at 12 M, in the Hotel St Denis, corner of Broadway and Eleventh Street, New York. Professor H C Elmer, of Cornell University, will address the club. All persons who are interested, whether teachers of Latin or not, are cordially invited to be present. The plan is to serve luncheon at 12 M, promptly, so that there shall be no delay. The address will follow the luncheon, and adjournment will occur about 2 P M, *thus leaving the afternoon still unbroken, for those who attend.* Please send a postal card at once to the Sec'y, Mr A L Hodges, 309 W 101 st, N Y, if you intend to be present, so that we may inform Mr Taylor, the proprietor of the hotel, how many to expect. *Please attend to this at once.*

The subject of Professor Elmer's address will be "The Important and the Unimportant in Latin Teaching".

The price of the luncheon will be 75 cents to members, \$1.00 to others.

Information as to the conditions of membership in The Latin Club can be had at this meeting, or by referring to Nos 3 and 10 of THE LATIN LEAFLET, or by addressing the Secretary.

H H BICE, *President*
A L HODGES, *Secretary*

Extracts from a Teacher's Note Book

(PROFESSOR ROLFE'S ADDRESS BEFORE THE NEW YORK
LATIN CLUB, December 3, 1904)

In Five Parts, Part V

The ictus or verse-pulse (or whatever we chose to call it) must also have been exceedingly light. I cannot agree with Professor Bennett that it did not exist at all, though I am not particular what we call it. I have heard him read Latin poetry, and it is a masterly performance. He comes as near as a mortal can to doing away with any ictus whatever, and perhaps he does so wholly; I cannot claim an absolutely accurate ear. But I incline to the opinion of those who hold that an ictus—or whatever equivalent we may use for that term—is an inevitable feature of verse, even though it be based on quantity. Professor Bennett's great service to the cause of accurate reading seems to me to have been in emphasizing the necessity of giving both vowels

and consonants their full phonetic value, and of making both ictus and accent as light as possible. This done, both word accent and verse ictus can be given in reading poetry, and while I am not sure that I can do it myself (I think I can), I have heard it done in reading Pindar by my former teacher, Professor Flagg, of the University of California.

In reading Greek verse the problem is less difficult perhaps, because we have two kinds of accent, a higher pitch for the word accent, and a stress for the verse ictus. When I read the paper of which I spoke, at Ann Arbor, I made the suggestion that possibly the word accent of the *sermo urbanus* of the classical period was a pitch accent. In a diction so strongly influenced by Greek models, in an age when every cultivated man could be addressed as *docte sermonēs utriusque linguae*, this seems to me by no means an impossibility, and it has been a satisfaction to have the view given the authority of print by Vendryes in his *Recherches sur l'histoire et les effets de l'intensité initiale en Latin*, not as a mere supposition, but as the result of a painstaking investigation.

Just how the Romans read, chanted, or declaimed their poetry can, I suppose, never be known, but I believe that we should read it, so far as expression goes, exactly as we read English poetry, or apart from the metre, exactly as we read Latin or English prose, with such emphasis and inflection of voice as will bring out the sense of what we read. This it seems to me cannot so well be done if the syllables are given a rigid exactness of measurement, but of this I am not sure. I believe that Professor Bennett is so far right, that we need pay no attention to the ictus, which will take care of itself. My theory of the way to read Latin poetry is then as follows: Read with due expression of the meaning, with scrupulous, though not necessarily uniform observance of quantity, give each word its prose accent in the lightest possible way, and let the ictus take care of itself. Of course this cannot be done without knowing the quantity of every vowel, and I should advocate a more strenuous study of the rules for quantity, and the marking of the long vowels in all texts, in poetry as well as in prose.

My practice would undoubtedly not correspond exactly with my theory, but I always make an honest effort to read in this way. For the student the practice of dividing what he reads in prose into cola, or speech units, which sometimes, but by no means always, correspond with the marks of punctuation, is of great importance. I am in the habit of telling my students that when they can do this, they will have no further difficulty with the translation of Latin of moderate difficulty, and I believe that this is so.

With reference to elision I have always advocated giving the elided vowel (or syllable ending in -m and a vowel) a slight sound. That the Romans themselves did this, seems to be shown by the occurrence of lines in which nearly every word would otherwise lose its final syllable, as well as by the